

(c) The earlier trend of investment is expected to continue by US & other countries in the Food Processing sector in India.

#### **Synthetic Drug Abuse**

2206. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are alarming increase in Synthetic drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to check the increase in number of synthetic drug cases ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued by the Union Government to State Governments to check the cases of drug abuse ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the reports received from the voluntary organisations assisted by this Ministry, under the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, there is an increasing trend in the use of synthetic drug abuse in the country.

(b) to (d) The Ministry is implementing the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention which a community based approach for building awareness and educating people about ill-effects of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the approved expenditure as per norms under the Scheme is released to the voluntary organisations for setting up/maintenance of Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Awareness and Counselling Centres for Awareness and Preventive Education Programmes and organising of De-addiction camps.

#### **Indian Drug Co. in the Dock**

2207. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dumping by China puts Indian Drug Cos. in the dock" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics' dated July 10, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian Drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No complaint has been received by the Government regarding dumping of Metronidazole by China in the Indian market.

(d) Under Indian Customs Tariff Act and the rules framed thereunder, a product is deemed to be dumped, if it is exported from any country at less than its normal value. An anti-dumping duty can be imposed only after it is established that there is dumping and that the dumped imports caused or threaten to cause material injury to the domestic industry or materially retard the establishment of the domestic industry. All the Petitions against dumping should be submitted to the Government for the purpose of conducting investigations for imposing of anti-dumping duties. An investigation regarding dumped imports would normally be initiated only upon receipt of written Petition by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry.

#### **Task Force on Traffic Control**

2208. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered road accidents and the number of persons died due to these accidents in NCT, Delhi during the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken by the Delhi Traffic police to check road accidents to regulate traffic and to apprehend the offending drivers;

(c) whether the Lt. Governor of Delhi had set up task force on traffic control in the Capital ;

(d) if so, the achievements made by the task force, so far;

(e) whether the number of road casualties came down and traffic bottlenecks removed as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The requisite information is as follows :

Year	No of accidents	No. of Persons killed
1994	9050	1884
1995	10138	2070
1996	11315	2091

(b) The steps being taken by Delhi Traffic Police to prevent road accidents in Delhi include strict enforcement of traffic rules, upgradation of traffic signal system, construction of road dividers, speed breakers and such other features and educating the public about the road safety measures. It has also been decided to introduce Mass Rapid Transit System

(M.R.T.S.) as a long term strategy to cope up with the rapidly increasing volume of traffic in Delhi.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. However, the Committee was set up only in February, 1997 and it is too early to evaluate its impact on overall traffic management.

#### **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**

2209. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the villagers living within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve are agitating for opening its core zone to them;

(b) if so, the date from which the villagers access to the Biosphere Reserve has been stopped;

(c) whether poachers and hunters now operate without check in the reserve area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the Biosphere?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that from time to time they have received letters and representations from the local people to open the core zone area for tourism and trekking.

(b) Any entry into the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve has been prohibited since 18.2.1983.

(c) No Sir. The State Government has reported that regular patrolling of area is done by the staff employed for the purpose who keep a strict watch and control on any poaching and hunting.

(d) and (e) Does not arise. However, eco-development activities in the buffer zone are undertaken with the cooperation and involvement of the local people.

#### **Production of Fruit and Vegetable in Gujarat**

2210. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Gujarat in the production of fruit and vegetable as compared to other States in the country ;

(b) the type of assistance provided to Gujarat by the Indian council for Agricultural Research for research work in the field of fruit and vegetable;

(c) the details of the amount sanctioned by the Government for this purpose during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the actual amount spent thereon;

(d) the details of the assistance provided to Gujarat by the Government in the production processing and marketing of fruit and vegetable; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote and the development of fruit and vegetable in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Gujarat occupies 7th position in the production of fruits and 12th position in the production of vegetables in the country.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural research is providing assistance through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on fruits and vegetables and research Centres of Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. Besides, Assistance is also being provided through *ad hoc* cess fund schemes on various crops to State Agricultural University. The details of the amount sanctioned year-wise in this regard are given in the attached Statements-I and II.

(d) and (e) In order to promote cultivation of fruits and vegetables in the country (including Gujarat) Govt. of India is implementing following schemes (besides State plan schemes) under which assistance planting materials, input supply for improving productivity, demonstration, training etc.

(i) Integrated development of fruits.

(ii) Production and supply of vegetable seeds.

(iii) Development of root and tuber crops.

(iv) Development of mushroom.

(v) Use of plastic in agriculture

(vi) Establishment of nutritional garden in rural areas

(vii) Development of bee keeping for improving crop productivity.

Govt. of India through National Horticulture Board is extending soft loan assistance for creation of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing facilities for fruits and vegetables. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is also providing assistance to cooperatives of fruits and vegetables producers for the development of infrastructure for marketing and processing in the form of loan. Ministry of Food Processing Industries on the other hand, is providing assistance for establishing processing units. Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority is providing assistance through various schemes for export promotion including infrastructure development and air freight subsidy. Assistance in these cases are provided on case to case basis on demand.